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19. (Amended) The mask of Claim ~~15~~¹³, wherein said
inflatable harness [further] comprises a plurality of inflatable
tubes connected to said [oxygen] pressure regulator and adjustably
connected to said mounting points on said [mask] face seal by said
5 adjustable straps.

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20. (Amended) The mask of Claim ~~19~~¹⁶ [15], wherein said
inflatable tubes comprise flexible elastomeric tubes covered with
a flame retardant material.

REMARKS

Responsive to the office action of October 31, 1995,
claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended.
Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully
requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing the
mask in an essentially cylindrical configuration, as was recited in
claim 1. Claim 1 has now been amended to delete the feature of an
essentially cylindrical configuration, so that it is believed that
the objection to the drawings should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected as being indefinite,
concerning a lack of antecedent basis for "flexible lens" or
"lens", "attach points", and "mounting points". The claims have
been amended to provide antecedent basis with regard to these

terms, and all of the pending claims have been reviewed thoroughly and have been amended where necessary to insure that proper antecedent basis is provided in the claims for the elements recited. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 for indefiniteness can now be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 3-10, 12-17 and 19-21 as being obvious from Aulgur, et al. in view of Eros MAGIC quick-dawning mask. The Examiner asserted that the Eros MAGIC quick-donning mask teaches a flexible lens. The Examiner referred to an asterisk, "in the column" but such an asterisk was not found in Applicant's copy of the Eros MAGIC quick-donning mask reference. This reference does not appear to include any teaching of a flexible lens that would allow the mask to have a rolled configuration as shown in Figure 3 of the drawings of the present application. The copy of the reference also included photos of a breathing mask without a lens at all, along with the French language text. A clean and more legible copy of a 1989 brochure for the Eros MAGIC quick-donning mask is enclosed for the Examiner's reference. It should be clear from the text and photographs that there is no disclosure of rolling of the mask or that the lens itself is flexible. Furthermore, in the data column of the stowage box or front piece specifications, it is noted that the overall dimensions of the stowage box are 7.87 inches by 4.80 inches, which corresponds to a rectangular configuration as shown in Figure 2, depicting the prior art. It is a distinct advantage

of the present invention that the quick-donning mask of the invention can be rolled to occupy a small volume for storage. The Examiner referred to a \$ "in the column" in the Eros MAGIC quick-donning mask reference; however such a \$ indication does not appear in Applicant's copy of the reference, and the stowage box shown appears to be in a rectangular configuration corresponding to Figure 2 of the drawings of the present application showing the prior art system. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims under consideration on the grounds of obviousness should be withdrawn.

A supplemental information disclosure statement accompanies this amendment, submitting a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,595,003 (Shoemaker, et al.), teaching a protective mask including a transparent visor. However, there is no teaching or disclosure that the mask can be molded into a small volume for stowage.

Applicant has reviewed the additional references made of record, and these are considered to be less pertinent than the references actually applied by the Examiner.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application should now be in a

Serial No. 08,316,422

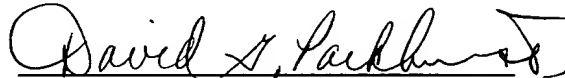
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condition for allowance. An early favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT

By:



David G. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 29,422

DGP/jas
Encl.

10877 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel. No. (310) 824-5555

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FEB 13 1996

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